Fire in the Headquarters of BCCL, Koilnagar

3203. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a huge fire in the Headquarters of Bharat Coking Coal Limited at Koilnagar in May, 2001;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what has been the extent of loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Fire had broken out at about 1.00 P.M. on 27-5-2001 in level-II of Central Block, Koyla Bhavan which was under the occupation of project and planning division of BCCL. The committee constituted for investigating into the cause and source of fire has established that it was due to electric short circuiting.

(c) Loss has been estimated to be around 1.51 crores.

Recommendations of Geethakrishnan Committee

3204. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Geethakrishnan Committee has recommended closing down of marketing offices of CIL;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon;

(c) the details of the marketing offices of CIL functioning at present all over the country; and

(d) business done by these marketing offices during the last three years in comparison to private coal companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) The Expenditure Reforms Commission (Geethakrishnan Committee) in para 42(b)(i) of its Report has recommended that a good, efficient, cost-effective and commercially transparent IT based sales and marketing network should replace the present set up of regional offices.

(b) The Ministry is of the view that there is a strong case for restructuring the regional and sales offices of CIL and a good, efficient, cost-effective and commercially transparent IT based sales and marketing network may replace